

High Schools That Work/Making Middle Grades Work April Newsletter and Network Meeting Notes

Marsha Kucker
HSTW/MMGW State Coordinator
Phone: 367-7680
Cell: 280-0650
Email: mkucker@edec.org

Summer Contacts!

I will continue to send monthly newsletters throughout the summer. If you will not have access to your current email address, please send me your home email.

Youth Internship Meeting – May 1

Interested in implementing Youth Internships at your school?? A meeting to plan the statewide framework is planned for May 1 in Pierre. A discussion of possible funding for projects will also be discussed. See meeting topics and agenda that follows:

Place: Comfort Inn 412 W. Sioux
Ph. 224-0377
Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Mileage and Meals reimbursed at State Rates

Agenda:

1. To establish a statewide framework for Youth Internships
2. Discussion of existing programs with examples of current practices
3. Discussion of funding using SB 168 Funds
4. Discussion of Career Academies and the relationship of Academies to Youth Internships

Please contact Rich Deaver at ramrod@rushmore.com if you are interested in being a part of this work group.

Teachers As Advisors

We are in the process of developing a statewide framework for Teachers As Advisors. Schools interested in participating as a pilot school are encouraged to attend the meeting on May 8 in Mitchell. Pilot schools will assist with developing the Grade 6-12 curriculum and be willing to implement the program – either at the middle or high school level/or both. Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of this project. Statewide implementation and training is planned for Spring 2007.

OCTE Plans – New Funding

The South Dakota Legislature approved a \$1,000,000 allocation for Career and Technical Education. Watch for the Request for Proposal forms that will be coming soon from the Office of Career and Technical Education. Grant funds are targeted toward career academies, youth internships, equipment for CTE

programs, and advanced placement. Included in these projects are: career clusters, Teachers As Advisors, Senior Projects, and distance learning aspects.

Senior Projects

Just a reminder of the upcoming workshop on May 11 in Sioux Falls. This one day training session will “get you on the road” to designing a plan for Senior Projects specific to your school. See the registration form that is attached.

Technical Assistance Site Visits

Here’s a summary of “where we’re at!” Give me a call or email me if you have concerns. Also---if you’re scheduled for a TAV, please get suggested dates to me as soon as possible.

1. Burke – TAV Fall 2006 – Possible Dates: October 10-13 or October 23-27.
2. Chamberlain – Has had TAV. The offer is still open for me to come and do post-TAV visit if you want me to.
3. Chester – Should schedule a Technical Review for the high school. We could do a high school and middle school combined.
4. Dakota Valley – Are waiting for the TAV Report. Let me know if/when you’d like me to come and meet with you.
5. Deuel - has had TAV’s and post-meeting.
6. East Dakota – No TAV needed, but I would be available to set up a planning meeting.
7. Flandreau – Let me know of possible dates for your Technical Review. Fall 2006 is ok.
8. Emery – Technical Review set for this month.
9. Kimball – Give me a call to set up a post-TAV meeting.
10. LAMD – will do TAV this Fall in conjunction with Watertown High School. Let me know of possible dates.
11. Pierre – Middle School – needs TAV report, High School – post TAV visit.
12. Madison – Fall 2006 TAV.
13. Sturgis – Middle School and High School Technical Review needed.
14. Rutland – Waiting for the TAV report. Need post TAV meeting.
15. Spearfish – Waiting for the TAV report. Need post-TAV meeting.
16. Tea – Need post-TAV meeting.
17. Timber Lake – TAV Fall 2006
18. Tri-Valley – TAV Fall 2006
19. Vermillion – Waiting for TAV reports.
20. Watertown – TAV Fall 2006

Post Assessment Workshop

We will be scheduling a post-assessment workshop sometime in late August or early September. I’ll be getting back to you with a more definite date as soon as we know when the test results will be available.

National HSTW Conference

Just a reminder that if you plan on attending the conference—and haven't made room reservations in Orlando—you may want to do so asap. Hotels are filling up! Looks like we'll have a good turnout again this year. For conference details check out sreb.org.

HSTW Award of Excellence

South Dakota had an excellent showing. We had 200 students that received this award. Certificates will be mailed to you from SREB on May 1. In an earlier email, I sent copies of a sample press release and other award information. Let me know if you did not receive this and I'll send again!

College Credit

The course syllabi is attached to this email. The form to record sessions attended in the South Dakota HSTW/MMGW website. Let me know if you need NSU application forms sent to your school. This is an easy and cost effective way to earn up to four college credits during the school year. We will be offering college credit for HSTW/MMGW training again next year.

Writing to Win

Two workshops are set for the week of June 11 in Mitchell. See the flier that is attached!

Report Forms

The HSTW/MMGW annual report forms will be sent around the first of May. This report comes from the Southern Regional Education Board. Completion of this report, a best practices form, and a budget report will serve as your final project report. An application form for next year is also being prepared. These reports will be due back the end of May or early June.

Summer Conference

This year is the "first step" in combining conferences sponsored through the Office of Career and Technical Education. The OCTE Summer Institute, High Schools That Work/Making Middle Grades Work, Tech Prep and the Association of Career and Technical Education are all combining to hold one annual conference. This year, the conference is August 8-10 in Pierre. We will be holding a HSTW/MMGW network meeting on either August 7 or the 11th. Watch for more details soon.

Information from the High Schools That Work Board Meeting in Atlanta

Here is some information/updates from a recent HSTW Board Meeting that I attended in Atlanta.

National Professional Development Workshops

(These dates are tentative.) Here's the October – December schedule.

Site Coordinator's Retreat – Your Role in Implementing the HSTW/MMGW Design - October 5 and 6 – Atlanta

Adviser/Advisee Programs: Providing Timely Guidance to Students
October 9-10 – Charlotte, NC

Literacy Strategies Every Teacher Can Use – October 12 -13 – Atlanta

Implementing High Quality Career/Technical Programs – November 6-6 – Atlanta

Using Data to Set Priorities for Teaching and Learning – Unwrapping the 2006 Assessment Report – November 13 – 14 – Atlanta

Involving Special Education Teachers and Students in the HSTW Initiative

I attended a session on HSTW and reaching Special Education students. Here's a summary of that presentation.

10 Actions HSTW Sites Can Take to Better Serve Exceptional Students

1. Investigate actions needed to implement full inclusion for special education students.
2. Establish transition activities for special needs students.
3. Provide training for academic and special needs teachers.
4. Create "accommodation sheets" for each special needs student.
5. Provide common planning time for regular and special education teachers.
6. Establish a peer observation system.
7. Establish periodic professional development opportunities to update academic teachers on meeting the needs of special needs students.
8. Provide a career exploration class for all students.
9. Establish a system to transition students directly from school to work.
10. Create a student support team to assist in providing services for special needs students.